DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

EXCISE

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(77)

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NAMIBIA

The Issue

In 1977, the five Western members of the Security Council -- the US, United Kingdom, France, West Germany and Canada -- launched a diplomatic effort to bring about an internationally acceptable independence for Namibia. This Western Five effort calls for a ceasefire, UN supervised elections for a constituent assembly, and a UN peacekeeping force.

South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrilla movement accepted the Western Five plan in principle in 1979 and the Security Council endorsed the plan in its Resolution 435. Since then, South Africa has raised questions on UN proposals for implementation, and, most recently, has requested assurances that the UN is not partial toward SWAPO. [redacted] B1, A5 Internal Namibian elections have been consistently boycotted by SWAPO and several major internal black political parties.

[redacted] B1, A5

The Front Line and SWAPO are prepared to implement the UN plan to rid southern Africa of this issue. [redacted] B1, A5 Angola could reduce its dependence on Cuban/Soviet military assistance if the South Africans were removed from its border.

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GDS 11/19/86

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 6/7/83

EDS ☒ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH: _____ REASON(S)

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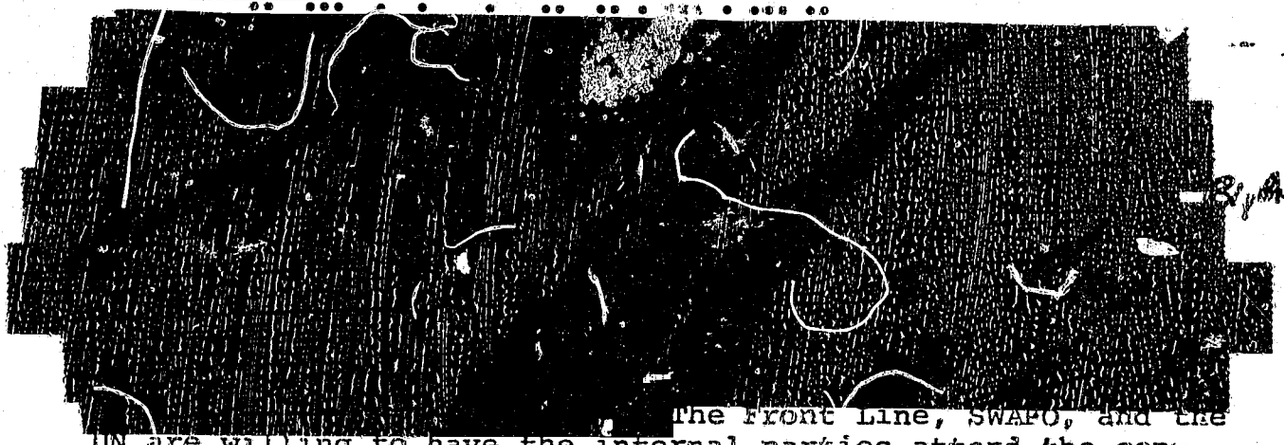
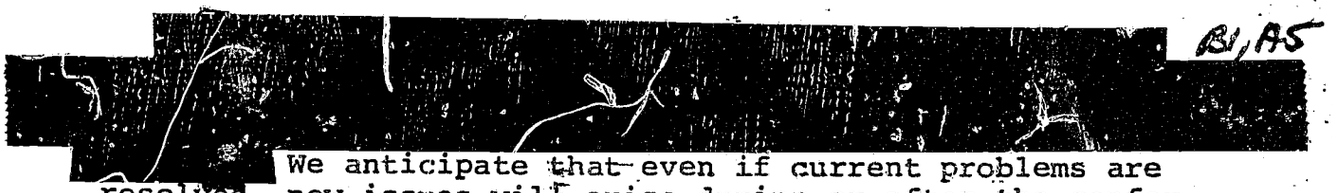
Time Factors



B1, A5

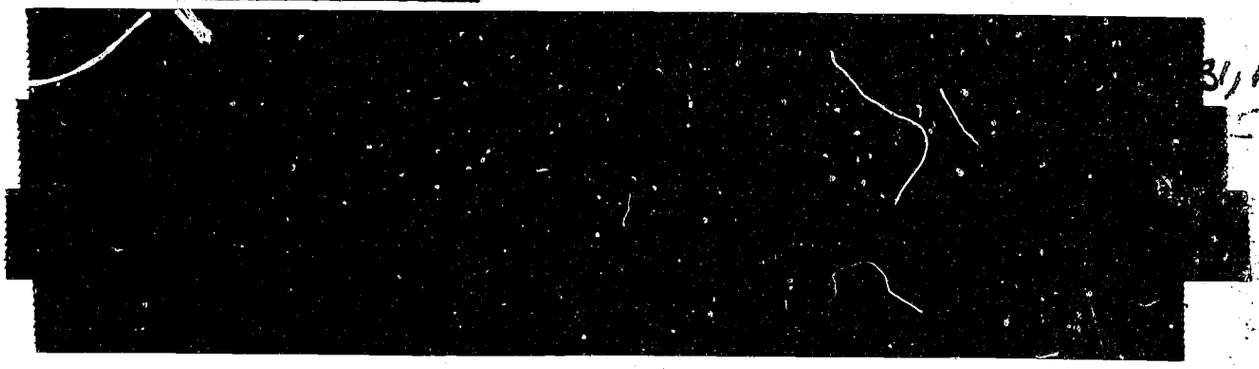
The Front Line, SWAPO, and the UN are willing to have the internal parties attend the conference but insist that South Africa remain responsible for Namibia. They also oppose discussion of a constitution. An attempt to negotiate a constitution could considerably delay a settlement.



B1, A5

We anticipate that even if current problems are resolved, new issues will arise during or after the conference, with requests for Contact Group involvement. If the conference is not held, there will be early pressure in the Security Council for sanctions against South Africa.

US Policy and Actions



B1, A5

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FAUNDL

Unlike the situation in Zimbabwe, there is no colonial power to officiate over a transition to independence in Namibia. The United Nations claims to be the legal administrator of the territory; South Africa is the de facto authority. [redacted] B1, A5

The Contact Group tries to act as an honest broker in the negotiations, addressing the UN, making suggestions and conducting an active diplomacy with South Africa and the Front Line states.

[redacted] B1, A5

[redacted] B1, A5

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